23.1 Rehabilitation of Historical and Cultural Heritage Sites and Structures

The “Matching Grant Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Historical and Cultural Heritage Sites and Structures” was set up to facilitate the raising of funds for the rehabilitation of historically and culturally important buildings and sites not-owned by Government that require urgent rehabilitation. Under the scheme, 50 per cent of the costs of rehabilitation was to be contributed upfront by Government on a matching basis. Should the beneficiary be unable to raise funds to the tune of the Government funding, it would need to reimburse Government the difference between the amount provided and the fund it raised.

A total amount of Rs 57 million was disbursed during 2006-07 for two beneficiaries and a further amount of Rs 50 million was disbursed during 2007-08 for another beneficiary. As of September 2008, the following were noted:

- In October 2007 the National Heritage Fund (NHF) had already started preliminary works on the required 10-year plan. However, this plan was still not seen at the Ministry.
- Memorandum of understanding was not yet finalised.
- Implementation plan for rehabilitation works was not seen.
- There was no evidence that action has been taken to ensure that any unmatched amount be reimbursed to Government. Evidence for the raising of an unmatched amount of Rs 2.4 million by a beneficiary was not seen.